

A Day in the Life of a Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher with an Academic Approach

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Purpose of Full-Time Kindergarten

- The full-time kindergarten program is a continuation of the effort to improve the achievement level of students. The expanded schedule is intended to provide experiences that enhance each child's cognitive, physical, social, emotional, fine and gross motor skills.

Goals of Full-Time Kindergarten

- Increase student achievement in the core academic areas
- Decrease placements in remedial programs
- Decrease retentions
- Improve attendance rates
- Teach and improve classroom behavior and social skills
- Better prepare students for first grade
- Provide more individualized activities
- Provide more time for self-directed activities
- Provide for the students who would have qualified for extended kindergarten

What to do if you have a half-time student with full-time students in your classroom

- **Must** teach Communication Arts and Math curriculum in the morning session.

Highlights of the full-time kindergarten program in the Great Falls Public Schools

- The full-time kindergarten program was developed over 12 years by a broad base committee comprised of teachers, parents and administrators.
- 99% of our students attend full day
- Full-time kindergartners attend the same number of minutes as our primary grades.
(340)

Highlights of the full-time kindergarten program in Great Falls Public Schools

- Curriculum coverage was increased 12 weeks per year in reading and math.
- As first graders full-time kindergartners showed significant increase in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills in reading, math and language as compared to previous first graders.
- As third graders full-time kindergartners scored significantly higher on the CRT test than the state average.

Work sample from half-time kindergarten student

csfhm (cats)

Student transfer from half-time Kindergarten
program out-of-district.

Work sample from full-time kindergarten student

I want to Be a techr.

I want to no wut tim it is.

I want to git u nuthr prezint for my ucl.

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What is in a day?

- LUNCH : 33 minutes total
(lunch and recess)
- SESSION LENGTH:
3 hours for AM
33 minute lunch
2 hours 40 minute PM
6 hours and 20 minutes total
- SPECIALS: 2 health enhancement, 1 music, 1 library
- RECESS: 6 recesses/week
- CONCEPT GROUPS:
created for students that qualified for extended kindergarten
- SNACKS: recommended for kindergarten students

What is in a day?

- QUIET TIME: if needed 15 minutes of afternoon quiet time
- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Parents attend an orientation session
- COMPUTER LAB: Successmaker, Math Facts



Academic Program for Full-Time Kindergarten

- Communication Arts
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- Art
- Music
- Health Enhancement
- Child Development





Communication Arts



- Listening (enjoying literature, interacting with others, following directions)
 - Recall numbers, names, messages
 - Follow spoken directions
- Speaking (Using speech effectively, contributing to group situations, expressing needs, communicating ideas)
 - Develop vocabulary
- Express feelings and imagination
 - Introduce retelling of stories
 - Make contributions during discussions

Communication Arts

- Reading (becoming aware of the significance of printed language, refining skills related to learning to read, letter-sound relationships)
 - Identify letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case)
 - Introduce and increase the use of consonant letters and sounds, consonant digraphs (th, sh, ch, wh), consonant blends, the concept of words, the use of simple sentences, high frequency words, color words
 - Understand the parts of a book
 - Understand author/illustrator
 - Introduce and increase the use of rhyme, repetitive words and phrases
- Introduce and increase the use of retelling stories
- Recognize characters and setting
- Introduce and increase the use of visual references aids (graphs, charts)
- Recognize nonfiction literature
- Enjoy and read (wordless books, pattern books, rhyming books, beginning readers) fiction literature
- Accelerated Reader (whole class, individual)

Communication Arts

- Writing (expressing ideas in written form)
 - Convey a message by writing (random letters, shapes, pictures, left to right)
 - Introduce and increase the use of correct letter formations
 - Recognize and copy words around them
- Label pictures
- Write messages and lists
- Introduce and increase the use of prewriting, drafting, and publishing through class stories
- Introduce and increase the use of journals, free writing, listing and brainstorming

Math (Marilyn Burns Philosophy)

■ Problem solving

- Identify classification and attributes
- Identify and extend patterns
- Gather, graph and describe data

■ Number Sense

- Count to 100, recognize numbers to 50, write to 31 (calendar)
- Introduce counting by 2's and 5's
- Count by 10's to 100
- One to one correspondence to 10
- Introduce addition and subtraction facts to 10

Math (Marilyn Burns Philosophy)

■ Number Operations

- Solve simple verbal problems (addition and subtraction)
- Read, write and solve simple number sentences (addition and subtraction)

■ Measurement concepts

- Compare more/less and heavier/lighter
- Work with calendars (days of week, number sequence, counting patterns, money)
- Estimate length, weight, capacity

Math (Marilyn Burns Philosophy)

- Spatial/ Geometric Awareness
 - Identify shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval)

Social Studies

- Community Helpers
- My Family
- Safety
- American Indian culture
- Circus
- Farms
- Pets
- Zoo
- Seasons
- Holidays
- The Five Senses

Science

- Plants
- Animals
- Seasons
- Food Groups
- Life cycle of a fish
- Environments
- Weather
- Recycling
- Magnets

Classroom Meetings

- Create a community within the classroom
- Introduce and use social skills
- Opportunity for students to share and interact with peers

Sample Class Schedule

- 8:35 Morning Bell, Bell Assignment, Announcements
- 8:45 Read Well
- 9:15 Everyday Counts (Calendar)
- 9:30 Zoo phonics
- 9:45 Journal
- 10:00 Snack/Bathroom/Drinks
- 10:15 Recess
- 10:30 Communication Arts
- 11:25 Lunch
- 12:03 Read Aloud/Rest time
- 12:15 Concept Groups/Zoo Phonics centers
- 12:45 Math
- 2:00 Recess
- 2:15 Science/Social Studies
- 2:45 Clean Up
- 2:55 Dismissal

Integrate, Integrate, Integrate!

- Math
- Reading
- Writing
- Science
- Social Studies

Portfolio

- Shows student growth over the year
- Project allows child to work with parents and show their best work

Communication with Parents

- Back to school night
 - Orientation for parents
- Parent/Teacher Conferences- twice a year fall and spring
- Report Cards – twice a year (semesters)
- Boos/Hoorays/Notes/Phone Calls/Postcards
- Parent Volunteers

Homework

- Monthly
- List of assignments
- Students given whole month to complete and return assignments
- Usually includes nightly reading, math concepts, writing

Assessments

- Data on the Wall
 - Numbers, sounds, letters, sight words, addition, subtraction
- Monthly Assessments
 - Cutting, writing, coloring (quick check assessment using checklist)
- Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills)
 - Fall/Winter/Spring/End of Year
 - Small groups based on scores
 - Progress monitoring
- Chapter and performance assessments in Math and Reading

How Do We Do This?

- Year Plan for Communication Arts, Math, and writing
- Formal meeting with principal (Monthly)
- Communication as a team (Daily)

Trainings We Recommend

- Read Well (Reading)
- Zoo Phonics
- DIBELS
- Marilyn Burns (Math)

Questions?
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